



# Australian Bureau of Statistics

## 1104.0 - CURF Microdata News, Dec 2005

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 22/12/2005

### Contents

New Family Characteristics Survey (FCS) Expanded CURF  
CURF National Client Information Sessions - Outcomes  
CURF Renewal Requirements  
Survey of Income and Housing Costs CURF - Reissue  
New CURF Application and Undertaking for Individual Users  
RADL STATA Pilot Test  
RADL Christmas arrangements  
CURF Emailing List  
CMU Staffing

This page last updated 11 September 2007

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### New Family Characteristics Survey (FCS) Expanded CURF due in December 2005

The 2003 Family Characteristics Survey (FCS) collected details on household and family composition including demographic, labour force, and family type. A particular focus of the survey is families with children aged 0-17 years. The additional information collected for these families included information about family structure, the social marital status of the parents, parental income and contact arrangements for children with non-resident parents.

For more information go to Main Features for Family Characteristics ( ABS Cat No. 4442.0)

This page last updated 13 September 2007

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### CURF National Client Information Sessions - Outcomes

ABS is very pleased with the feedback provided by clients and potential clients during the 31 sessions attended by over 400 people conducted in all capital cities during March to May 2005. The CURF Management Unit is looking to develop future client contact sessions to continue providing information to clients and possibly include more detailed RADL and data specific training for clients.

If you are interested in attending a CURF National Client Information Session in your State or Territory in 2006 please contact us at [microdata.access@abs.gov.au](mailto:microdata.access@abs.gov.au)

The relevant Survey Subject Areas have been advised of the client feedback and the ABS is considering many of the issues raised including the following:

- Progressing the next 2006 Census Household Sample File to provide a 5% Expanded file via the RADL and a 1% on CD-ROM and available via the RADL
- RADL development to have output in .csv format
- RADL development to provide STATA access
- Test files to be available outside the RADL
- Business Data to be developed including the release of the Innovations Survey in early 2006

This page last updated 13 September 2007

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### CURF Renewal Requirements

The ABS CURF access arrangements include annual renewal procedures to enable ongoing access for organisations and their individuals.

Individual Users are required to provide details to their Contact Officer on how each CURF has been used in the previous year including published output.

For more information on CURF annual renewals go to [Annual Renewal of Access](#)

This page last updated 13 September 2007

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### Survey of Income and Housing Costs CURF - Reissue

An extensive investigation into Income and Housing Costs Survey data was carried out in 2003 in response to concerns that analysis of income inequality over time may have been affected by changes in ABS survey methodologies and estimation procedures from survey cycle to survey cycle. The need for revisions to all years was identified.

Information about the revisions is available at the following links;

- Technical Paper (ABS Cat. No. 6541.0);
- The 2000-01 issue of Household Income and Income Distribution (ABS Cat. No. 6523.0); and
- Feature Article Revised Household Income Distribution Statistics in the June 2003 issue of Australian Economic Indicators (ABS Cat. No. 1350.0).

This page last updated 13 September 2007

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### New CURF Application and Undertaking for Individual Users

Follow the What's New link to keep up to date with new CURF developments and to see the new .pdf version of the CURF Application and Undertaking released on 15 November 2005. Previous versions dated prior to November 2005 will no longer be accepted.

This page last updated 13 September 2007

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### RADL STATA Pilot Test

The RADL provides access to more detailed CURF data than can be made available on CD-ROM and is a secure on-line data query service that clients access via the ABS web site. An exciting recent development is the introduction of a STATA pilot test. ABS has 6 registered users who can analyse CURFs using STATA to develop articles for the September 2006 edition of the Australian Journal of Labour Economics.

This page last updated 13 September 2007

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### RADL Christmas arrangements

The ABS will be closed for the period Monday 26 December 2005 to Monday 2 January 2006. Clients will continue to receive RADL automatic output clearance, however no manual clearance service will be available. Please contact Carolyn Kennedy [carolyn.kennedy@abs.gov.au](mailto:carolyn.kennedy@abs.gov.au) if this closure will be of concern to you.

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### CURF Emailing List

The CURF Management Unit provides regular email updates on new CURFs and CURF access developments. To join our emailing list email [microdata.access@abs.gov.au](mailto:microdata.access@abs.gov.au). Please advise us of any email address changes to continue receiving CURF information.

This page last updated 13 September 2007

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### Staffing

CMU continue to be available to help you with any queries that cannot be answered from the 'Access to ABS CURFs' web pages. Our staff include Carolyn Kennedy, Simone Maconachie, Bob Osten and Rebecca Sipeki. We wish Donna Goodman good luck as she leaves the CMU this year for a new challenging position in the ABS. Donna will be replaced by Grant Mitchell in January 2006.

### CMU CONTACT DETAILS

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This page last updated 13 September 2007

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CURF Microdata News is a quarterly newsletter created by the CURF Management Unit (CMU) at the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

CURF Microdata News is aimed at informing new and current Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) Microdata users about issues and developments in the access to, and use of, CURF Microdata. The newsletter periodically covers topics such as available and forthcoming microdata releases, terms and conditions of access, responsible access to microdata and best practice tips, pricing, microdata research outputs, frequently asked questions, and information about applying for ABS CURF microdata.

Interested readers are also invited to visit the CURF Microdata pages on the ABS web site for relevant up-to-date information about each of these matters, as well as all application forms.

This page last updated 13 September 2007

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